

INCOMING TELEGRAM

*Department of State**Gen. Coun.*

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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 507, October 7, 4 p.m.

SENT DEPARTMENT 507; REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON 67.

Reference EMBTEL No. 503.

At opera last night Representatives Battle and Fisher and I were informed by Barbara Castle that her group at insistence of Soviet hosts were to stop off (en route China) to see industrial establishments in Ural area or Western Siberia.

This is first time to my knowledge that Soviet authorities in recent years have given permission to (much less urged as in this case) non-Communist foreigners to visit these plants. While one cannot, of course, be sure of reasons for Soviet action, I am inclined to believe that it may reflect Soviet sensitiveness to apparent tendency on part of British labor groups (re EMBTEL 224) to treat USSR as whistle-stop on route to China.

BOHLEN

VD

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